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opening on LB 95. Senator Bromm, as Chairman of Transportation Committee, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 95. (AM0355, Legislative Journal page 711.)

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Committee amendment is AM0355, and the Page is going around distributing copies of information that's pertinent to this amendment. And hopefully a Page might bring me a copy of the pertinent information so that I can have it while I'm giving my opening, if a Page could do that. Thank you, Senator Jones. Okay. When the...when the bill was introduced by Senator Schimek, it was introduced in a...in a form that, after some study and some consultation with legal counsel, it was determined that the bill, as introduced, would not allow us to comply with the federal regulations, particularly what is referred to as Section 154, which pertains to open containers. The bill, as originally introduced, would not...would not provide that the driver was prohibited from consuming or possessing alcoholic liquor, entirely, when he wasn't in the seating position of being driver. So that needed to be changed. So we...last spring, prepared the amendment, AM0355, we submitted that for review by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and I am distributing to you, and you'll have on your desk shortly, the letter. And in particular the last page of that letter provides that on March 20 they received the amendment, AM0355, and it provides that as long as the language of AM0355 is enacted without change, it would enable Nebraska to continue to comply fully with the open container requirements of Section 154. So I wanted to, at least, tell the body that if you choose to advance LB 95, you need to adopt the committee amendment, otherwise we would be out of compliance with federal law and lose some...some funds out of our highway construction area accordingly. Secondly, I wanted to comment on the...the policy issue, I guess. When the open container law was passed a couple, three years ago, we knew at the time that we could pass a law that would allow open containers in hired limousines such as this proposes. However, the bill was...was pretty weighty with...with the policy changes that were in it, and there were objections by members of the Legislature to allowing open containers in limousines and buses. And so that provision was deleted at that time. I know at that time, and since that time,